

I CLAIM:

1. A system for determining a change in the weight of ink contained in an ink fountain in a printing press, said system comprising:
 - a. a sensor operatively connected to the ink fountain, wherein said sensor measures the weight of the ink and generates a signal corresponding to the measured weight;
 - b. a processor that is in communication with said sensor so as to receive and process the signal from said sensor and generate data about the weight of the ink contained in said ink fountain; and
 - c. a display in which the data is displayed to an operator of the printing press; whereby the displayed data provides the operator of the printing press with information relating to current ink usage at said ink fountain.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said sensor communicates with said processor by means of a wireless or wired device or network.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said sensor is a load cell.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein said processor is a computer.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein said display is a touch screen console.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein said printing press comprises two or more ink fountains, and the system comprises at least one sensor operatively connected to each ink fountain.
7. The system of claim 6 wherein each of the ink fountains contains ink of different colors, and the data is displayed to the operator on a per colour basis for each ink fountain.
8. A method for determining a change in the weight of ink contained in an ink fountain in a printing press, the method comprising of the steps of:

- a. measuring the weight of the ink using a sensor operatively connected to the ink fountain;
- b. generating a signal that corresponds to the measured weight;
- c. transmitting the signal to a processor and processing the signal to generate data about the weight of the ink; and
- d. displaying the data to an operator of the printing press;

whereby the displayed data provides the operator of the printing press with information relating to current ink usage at said ink fountain.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said sensor transmits the signal to the processor by means of a wireless or wired device or network.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein said sensor is a load cell.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein said processor is a computer.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said display is a touch screen console.
13. The method of claim 8 wherein said printing press comprises two or more ink fountains, and the method comprises measuring the weight of the ink in each of the ink fountains using at least one sensor operatively connected to each ink fountain.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein each of the ink fountains contains ink of different colors, and the displayed data is provided to the operator on a per colour basis.
15. The system of claim 1 wherein the display is an interactive display that allows the operator to make press-side adjustments to the system by using the interactive display, wherein the processor generates data about the press-side adjustments.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the system comprises means for transmitting the press-side adjustments data to a third party.